

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3693

ANSWERED ON:09.08.2016

Panel on Drug Abuse

Kothapalli Smt. Geetha

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government along with State Governments have formed a panel to suggest ways to tackle the drug menace and expand de-addiction facilities in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the panel has been asked to reach out to vulnerable groups such as street children found in and around Connaught Place and Nizamuddin among other areas and suggest ways to rehabilitate them and if so, the details and present status in this regard;

(c) whether the Panel has also charted ways on expanding medical facilities for addicts in terms of outpatient as well as inpatient departments in hospitals and health care centres, if so, the details thereof and the results yielded so far; and

(d) whether the panel also focuses on sensitising teachers across schools to nip the menace in the bud, if so, the details thereof and steps taken in this regard along with the results yielded so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)

(a) to (d) The Ministry had constituted a National Consultative Committee on De-addiction and Rehabilitation (NCCDR), in 2008, to advise the Central and State Governments on issues connected with drug demand reduction, especially education/awareness building, de-addiction and rehabilitation. The Committee is chaired by the Hon"ble Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment and, inter-alia, includes Secretaries of different Ministries/Departments, representatives of State Governments and Union Territories.

The functions of NCCDR are to advise Central and State Governments on the entire gamut of issues related to prevention, de-addiction, rehabilitation and harm reduction, with special reference to the following:

- i. Policies, programmes and legislation measures for persons affected by and/or vulnerable to alcoholism and drug abuse.
- ii. Education, awareness building and community mobilization.
- iii. Measures to facilitate physical and social rehabilitation of drug and alcohol abuse.
- iv. Feedback on implementation of the national programme on drug and alcohol demand reduction, and ways to improve their effectiveness.

To create awareness and educate people about the ill-effects of alcoholism and substance (drugs) abuse, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has been implementing a Scheme of Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse since 1985-86. Under this scheme, financial assistance up to 90% of the approved expenditure is given to Voluntary Organizations and other eligible agencies for setting up/running Integrated Rehabilitation Centre for Addicts (IRCA's). In the case of North-Eastern States, Sikkim and Jammu & Kashmir, the quantum of assistance is 95% of the total admissible expenditure.

The main objective of the Scheme is to alleviate the consequences of drug and alcohol dependence amongst the individual, the family and society at large and to provide for the whole range of community based services for the identification, motivation, counselling, de-addiction, after care and rehabilitation for Whole Person Recovery (WPR) of addicts to make a person drug free, crime free and gainfully employed.

Approximately one lakh victims of drug abuse are benefitted every year under this Scheme. Besides, the Ministry conducts following awareness generation programmes against Drug abuse:

- i) Sensitization and preventive education programmes in collaboration with National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) in schools and colleges on regular basis.
- ii) Awareness and outreach programmes involving organizations like Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), National Service Scheme (NSS) etc. An awareness generation programme in the State of Punjab had been assigned to NYKS in October 2014. The Ministry organized two Regional Workshops during year 2015-16 in collaboration with NSS at Shillong and Indore to sensitize students. The Coordinators of NSS from all the North Eastern States, Odisha and West Bengal attended the Workshop at Shillong and NSS Coordinators from Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan attended the Workshop at Indore. The Programme was also attended by a large number of students.
- iii) The Ministry has assigned an awareness generation programme to Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth (SPIC MACAY) to create awareness in children and youth about the harmful effects of substance abuse at schools in 22 districts of Punjab w.e.f July, 2016.
- iv) The Ministry also uses print, electronic and social media for creating awareness. Information regarding ill-effects of alcoholism and drug abuse is also disseminated in regional languages through the All India Radio programme "Sanwari Jayen Jeevan Ki Rahen" and also through advertisements in newspapers.

v) The Ministry celebrates the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26th June every year by holding functions and organizing exhibitions to sensitize the people about the ill effects of drug abuse. National Awards are also conferred to individuals and institutions in order to recognize the efforts and encourage excellence in the field of prevention of substance abuse.

vi) Ministry has set up a National Toll Free drug de-addiction helpline Number 1800-11-0031 w.e.f. 07.01.2015 to help the victims of Drug abuse, their family and society at large.
